

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A solid stool marker formulation which renders stool opaque to radiation in CT colography, said formulation comprising:

barium sulfate; and

a flocculant to flocculate said radio opacifying agent, such that i) if said solid stool marker formulation is diluted to provide 0.5 to 3% w/v barium sulfate; then from 0 to less than 0.035N ionic dispersants are present; and ii) wherein 0.25 g of said solid stool marker formulation diluted with water to 50ml and titrated against 3.0% w/v ferrous sulfate at pH 5.0-5.5 has a flocculation resistance of less than 5ml.

2. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the barium sulfate is administered in an amount less than 7.5g per dose.

3. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein barium sulfate is present in an amount of 5g per dose.

4. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the barium sulfate is present in an amount greater than 1g per dose.

5. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the barium sulfate has a particle size of about 3 microns.

6. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the flocculant is smectite clay.

7. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 further including a viscosity modifier which does not behave as a protective colloid in respect of the material to render stool opaque to radiation.

8. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 further including an anti-caking agent.

9. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 further treated with a treatment selected from the group consisting of high shear stirring and sonification prior to administration to a patient.

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10. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the material to render stool opaque to radiation is present in an amount effective to differentiate stool from non-stool without rendering density or movement induced artefacts in a CT rendering of the stool.

10 11. A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the solid composition comprises (% by weight):

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Barium Sulfate | 95 % |
| Smectite Clay | 2 % |
| Xanthan gum | 1.5 % |
| 15 Sodium Citrate | 0.10 % |
| Flavour, Sweetener, Preservatives | q.s. |

12. A method of radiologically visualising the colon of a patient including the steps of:
orally administering to a patient a stool marker formulation according to claim 1 to

20 render the stool opaque to radiation;

radiologically scanning the colon of the patient to produce data; and
manipulating the data to determine that portion of the data due to marked stool, to
thereby provide a representation of the colon, including where present, a polyp.

25 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the radiological visualisation is by means of a CT scanner.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein the radiological visualisation is by means of a helical scanner.

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15. A method according to claim 12 wherein the manipulation of the data involves subtraction of that portion of the data due to the marked stool, leaving a representation of the colon, including where present, a polyp.

5 16. A method of preparing a patient for a radiological examination including the step of administering to the patient a formulation according to claim 1 to render stool opaque to radiation.

10 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the formulation is administered orally over 24 to 48 hours preceding the radiological examination.

18. A method according to claim 16 wherein the formulation is administered in four or more dosages over 24 to 48 hours preceding the radiological examination.